

THE

Publishers' Weekly

[Formerly the TRADE CIRCULAR]

With which is incorporated the

American Literary Gazette and Publishers' Circular,

Established in the year 1852.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE PUBLISHERS' BOARD OF TRADE.

F. LEYPOLDT, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER, 37 PARK ROW, NEW YORK.

VOL. IV. No. 9.

NEW YORK, Saturday, August 30, 1873.

WHOLE No. 85.

D. APPLETON & CO.,
549 & 551 Broadway, New York,

PUBLISH THIS DAY:

I.

Miriam Monfort.

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The Publishers' Weekly.

AUGUST 30, 1873.

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Advertisements should reach the office of the *Publishers' Weekly* not later than Wednesday morning, but are desired as much earlier as possible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The interests of the trade cannot be better served than by a full discussion by its members of all questions which affect it. Our columns are always open to communications on any such subject, and we cordially invite the trade to express any suggestions or opinions of interest or value in "Letters to the Editor."

The Best Interests of the Trade.

TALLADEGA, ALA., August 12, 1873.

To the Editor of the Publishers' Weekly.

EACH number of your excellent trade journal but serves to increase my attachment, and I am fully assured by your past endeavors that success will crown your efforts in the direction of securing community of sentiment and interest among the entire trade.

Many gross and apparent evils have grown out of the American book trade which need to be remedied, and much is to be accomplished through your agency.

Underselling, unequal discounts, introductory rates, incomplete lists, and want of uniform prices are all evils as to which it is your peculiar province to bring about a remedy, and it is to you the dealer looks. Yours truly,

ALONZO E. SKAGGS.

Early Information.

HAMILTON, CANADA, August 14, 1873.

To the Editor of the Publishers' Weekly.

HAVING opened a circulating library, we want as early information as we can get about new and forthcoming books, as we shall always order several copies of each of the most important ones. We are also always prepared to negotiate for the purchase of good second-hand books suitable for a live library. As the want of such a library has long been felt here, it is already an assured success, and must continue such if properly conducted.

The WEEKLY now is almost indispensable, and we welcome its coming weekly. The monthly list of books is particularly valuable.

The Canadians are fast becoming great readers.

LANCEFIELD BROTHERS.

Medals of Merit at Vienna.

THE following is the list of "medals of merit" awarded at Vienna in connection with which our readers may be directly or indirectly interested. It is revised from the telegraphic columns of the *Herald*:

Jules Marcot, Boston, for maps.
 Wilson Hinkle & Co., of Cincinnati.
 Ernst Steiger, of New York.
 Luther Whiting, of Boston, for music.
 The National School Furniture Company.
 The Printing House for the Blind, of Louisville.
 Joseph L. Roch, of Boston, for school furniture.
 The Geographical Society of New York.
 Joseph Schedler, of Jersey City, for globes.
 Harper Brothers, for educational books.
 Astor Library of New York, for the promotion of science.
 Brewer Gardner, books.
 Cooper Institute of New York, for the improvement of the working classes.
 Cowperthwait & Co., of Philadelphia.
 Henry Barmauld, of Hartford, for educational journalism.
 Henry C. Lea, of Philadelphia, for science.
 James Morton, of New York, for gold pens.
 Ephraim Johnson, of New York, for gold pens.
 Sanford & Co., of Cleveland, for account books.
 Duval & Hunter, of Philadelphia, for chromos.
 The Bureau of Engraving and Printing of the Treasury Department of Washington.
 W. R. Howell, of New York, for photos.
 James Landy, of Cincinnati, for photos.
 Henry Rickman, of Cincinnati, for photographs.
 Charles Bierstadt, for Niagara Falls stereoscopes.
 Scovell Manufacturing Company, for photograph apparatus.
 Miss Sarah Fowler; Charles Maurice, of New York, for printing.

[OFFICIAL.]

Publishers' Board of Trade.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

25 Bond Street, New York.

August 25, 1873.

AGENCY REPORTS.

Messrs. D. APPLETON & Co. have engaged Mr. J. S. HAYES, headquarters at Boston, and Mr. C. BECKINGTON (headquarters not fixed.) They also report the name of Mr. W. M. SOPER (headquarters at New York) as omitted from their preceding report, and the headquarters of Mr. NICOLA R. MONACHESI as at New York instead of Little Rock. Messrs. WILSON, HINKLE & Co. have withdrawn Mr. J. U. CALDWELL, and substituted Mr. R. F. LEAMAN (headquarters not reported).

HENRY HOLT,
Secretary.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF BOOKS JUST PUBLISHED.

The Prices in this List are for cloth lettered, unless otherwise indicated. Imported Books are marked with an asterisk; Authors' and Subscription Books, or Books published at net prices, with two asterisks.

- Aide.**—Penruddocke. By Hamilton Aide. (Osgood's Library of Novels. Vol. 36.) 8°, pp. 190. \$1.25; pap. 75 c. Osgood.
- Alden.**—The Risen Life in Christ Jesus; sometimes called "The Higher Christian Life." By Edmund K. Alden. 24°, pp. 39. Pap. Cong. Pub. Co.
- Animal Series (The.)** 4 vols. Cont.:—Little Animals Described for Little People.—Little Fox.—Good Dogs.—Winged Things. Sq. 12°. Ea. with 8 illustr. \$5. Pott, Y. & Co.
- Blackall.**—Our Sunday School Work and How to Do It. By C. R. Blackall. 24°, pp. 50. 20 c; pap. 10 c. Bible & Pub. Soc.
- *Boston Public Library.**—A Catalogue of Books belonging to the Lower Hall of the Central Department in the classes of History, Biography, and Travel, including the histories of Literature, Art, Sects, etc., Politics, Geography, Voyages, Sketches, and Manners and Customs, together with notes for readers under subject references. Second, or consolidated edition, July, 1873. Roy. 8°, pp. 304. Pap. 75 c. Boston.
- Boyland.**—Six Months under the Red Cross, with the French Army. By George Halstead Boyland, M.D. Sm. 8°, pp. 232. \$1.50. Clarke.
- Brittan.**—Shoshie, the Hindoo Zenana Teacher. By Miss Harrietta G. Brittan. Illustr. 12°, pp. 222. \$1.25. Whittaker.
- Brooks.**—New Normal Mental Arithmetic. By Prof. E. Brooks, Principal of Pennsylvania State Normal School, Millersville, Pa. 18°, pp. 178. Hlf. bd. 38 c. Sower, P. & Co.
- Buds and Blossoms;** or, Stories for Children. With colored and other illustr. 12°. \$1.50. Pott, Y. & Co.
- Cicero.**—Select Orations of Marcus Tullius Cicero. With Explanatory Notes. For the use of schools. By Albert Harkness, LL.D. 12°. \$1.50. Appleton.
- Cicero's Select Orations.** With a Latin Ordo and Notes. 12°. Hlf. bd. \$1.25. Wiley.
- Collins.**—Miss or Mrs.? and other stories. By Wilkie Collins. 8°, pp. 141. Pap. 50 c. Peterson.
- *Cook's Continental Time Tables, and Tourist's Handbook,** a cheap, concise, and simple guide to all the Principal Lines of Railway, Steamers, Diligences, etc., etc., on the Continent of Europe, with especial reference to Cook's Direct and Circular Tickets, including details of all routes to Vienna for the Universal Exhibition. With eight sectional maps, etc. 16°, pp. 152. Pap. 35 c. Cook, S. & J.
- David Lloyd's Last Will.** By the author of "Max Kromer," etc. (Household Tales for Weekdays.) 16°. 75 c. Dodd & M.
- Deschanel.**—Natural Philosophy. By A. Privat Deschanel. Transl. and edited with extensive additions, by J. D. Everett, M.A. Illustr. with 760 wood-cuts, and 3 colored plates. 8°, pp. 1050. \$6.50. Appleton.
- Davies.**—New Bourdon's Algebra. By Charles Davies, LL.D. 8°. Shp. \$2.25. Barnes.
- New Calculus. By Charles Davies, LL.D. 8°, pp. 228. Shp. \$2. Barnes.
- *Earle.**—The Philology of the English Tongue. By John Earle, M.A. Second ed., rev. and greatly enlarged. 12°, pp. 679. \$3. Macmillan.
- Famous Cases of Circumstantial Evidence.** 8°, pp. 153. Shp. \$2.50. Dossy.
- Fulton.**—A Brown Stone Front, a Story of New York and Saratoga. (Puck Novel Series. Vol. 4.) By Chandos Fulton. Second ed., with corrections and additions. 16°, pp. 160. 75 c. Hinton.
- Garrett.**—Occupations of a Retired Life.—The Crust and Cake. New ed. (Household Tales for Weekdays.) By Edward Garrett. 16°. Ea. 75 c. Dodd & M.
- *Goodrich & Howland.**—Ocean's Story; or, Triumphs of Thirty Centuries. By F. B. Goodrich and E. Howland. Illustr. 8°, pp. 712. \$3. Hubbard.
- Greenwald.**—The Young Christian's Manual of Devotion. By Rev. E. Greenwald, D.D. 18°, pp. 99. 60 and 75 c. Luth. Bookstore.
- *Greenwood.**—The Elements of Greek Grammar, including Accidence, Irregular Verbs, and Principles of Derivation and Composition, adapted to the System of Crude Forms. 4th ed. 12°, pp. viii., 158. Corrected price. \$1.75. Macmillan.
- Harkness, Albert.** See Cicero.
- Henslow's Botanical Charts.** Modified and adapted for use in the United States. By Eliza A. Youmans. \$18. Appleton.
- Homer.**—Bryant's Iliad of Homer. Roslyn ed. 12°. \$4. Osgood.
- *Jaeger.**—Mind and Heart in Religion; or, Judaism and Christianity. A Heart's Experience, and a Popular Research into the true Religion of the Bible. By Abraham Jaeger. 12°, pp. 295. \$1.50. Goodspeed Pub. House.
- Johnson.**—Mouth of Gold; or, Chrysostom. By Edwin Johnson. 16°, pp. 110. Corrected price. \$1. Barnes.
- Kingston.**—The Three Midshipmen. By William H. G. Kingston. With 24 page illustr. by Geo. Thomas, Julian Porter, etc. New ed. Sq. 12°, pp. 416. \$3. Pott, Y. & Co.
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- Knapp's History of the Maumee Valley.** Illustr. 8°, pp. 700. \$6.50. Locke & J.
- Longfellow.**—Christus. A Mystery. Containing The Divine Tragedy, The Golden Legend, and New England Tragedies. By H. W. Longfellow. Diamond ed. 16°. \$1. Osgood.
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—See also, David Lloyd's Last Will.

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Showing as a Fine Art.

THERE is no shopkeeper who has the opportunity of making a prettier show than the bookseller. Books are essentially pretty things, as issued in the variegated forms of our popular cloth binding, and the bookseller, of all men, should make a study of showing as a fine art. Indeed he needs to be something of an artist, for good taste is no little capital in a bookstore. A man will buy beef and flour and paper muslin, whether he be invited to or not, but with most people book-buying is a luxury to which they are not seldom persuaded by an appeal to their taste. There are not so many disposed to dispense with the necessities of life and put up with the luxuries but that this holds quite generally true; and therefore it is that so much depends, in successful bookselling, upon a tasteful display of stock.

The window is one of the most important parts of the store, especially now-a-days, when so much attention is devoted to pretty little knick-knacks that arrange tastefully with books. The new books of general interest should always be kept in the windows, together with a sample supply of striking and attractive bindings and fine work. As a general rule, books should be placed in the front, sufficiently near the glass that the titles may be easily read from the street, even by near-sighted people, who are apt to form a large proportion of readers and buyers; and it is a good idea to placard them with a reference to previous popular books of the author, a descriptive adjective or two, and the price. This latter item is of great importance; often a possible customer will not take the trouble to ask a price, where the placarding of it is sufficient to tempt him in. Every one knows this from his own experience. Books should be so placed as to be shown at their best; when laid on the side, it is well to raise them a little at the top, in which way they show off much better. As a rule, in a book and stationery window, small articles should occupy the front, and large, as dictionaries, backgammon boards, pictures, and the like, the back of the window. Frequent change is of the first importance; show windows should be so arranged that every daily passer-by should be forced into a habit of stopping each time he passes to look at what is new. Attention to grouping and the arrangement of colors is very desirable.

Inside, similar rules should hold. A bookstore

should be planned with especial thought of making the books accessible to customers, so that they can turn over the leaves and become interested. There is, to be sure, some chance of books being soiled, and more opportunity is afforded to pilferers; but one of the largest retailers of New York, who introduced the custom of displaying valuable bindings in this free way, and who makes a thorough study of all these matters, states to us that he is sure the increase of his sales from this one direction much more than compensates for any such loss. It is quite as desirable to keep the store, as the window, looking fresh; and re-arrangement on the tables and open shelves should be as frequent and various as is consistent with convenience in finding. A customer soon gets tired of a store where the same line is always seen in the same place. It is as bad as mutton for dinner every day. Don't fail to have prices marked inside the books—and stick to the regular prices! These hints are of very great importance to the retail bookseller, and we assure him that some attention to showing as a fine art will pay well.

SINCE our last, we have received still more letters on underselling, in which several prominent members of the trade cite facts, and express their opinions vigorously against this abuse. We purpose, therefore, to print all together in our extra number of next week, and to defer further remarks upon this important subject until that date.

WE are glad to say that the "Uniform Trade List Annual" is progressing rapidly: we are now receiving the catalogues of publishers in proper shape every day, and think we can safely promise the work by the latter part of September, at the latest. We again urge that there be no delay on the part of publishers who have not yet printed or forwarded their lists; for procrastination on the part of any one house will greatly embarrass the whole enterprise. The lists of the leading houses, almost without exception, and of a great part of the minor houses, are now received.

OUR next issue, which will be ready just previous to the trade sale, and will have an especially large circulation in connection therewith, will contain the full list of announcements for the fall, so far as they can be made at the commencement of the season, with an editorial descriptive summary of books

forthcoming up to the new year. Those publishers from whom we have not heard are accordingly requested to forward their lists, with data for editorial description, at once; delay will compel their omission, for Time is prompt, if publishers are not. We shall endeavor to make this number of special value, and advertisers will find it to their interest to send in their favors early.

NOTES IN SEASON.

THE *Spectator*, in concluding an excellent notice of the new work, "Quixstar" (Putnams), says: "The whole book is a treat, but it is one to be taken in small bits, like plum-cake, not all at once."

VICTOR HUGO's new novel is nearly finished, and will be published in February, 1874, under the title of "Quatre-Vingt Treize," with the subtitle of "Premier récit: la Guerre Civile." The plot, says the *Athenæum*, carries the reader for an instant to Paris, and the imposing figures of Robespierre, Danton, and Marat appear upon the stage; but the action takes place almost entirely in the Vendée. The relations of the Vendéens to the English, and those of the Channel Island to the Breton coast, are illustrated by documents hitherto hardly known. An encounter between an English frigate and a French squadron is said to be grandly told.

M. LOUIS BLANC is seriously indisposed.

LADY POLLOCK, writing of "The Magazine Literature of America" in the *Contemporary Review*, closes her paper by comparing the best American writers, as to the care which they devote to their style, to the French authors of fiction. "Our English novelists," she says, "are, with a few well-known exceptions, wholly indifferent to our English grammar, and beauty of style is so little prized generally in prose, that symmetry of our language might run the risk of annihilation, but for the reverence with which American letters cherish it. American literature is now in the vigor of its youth, but the danger of a feeble imitation of established models threatens every national literature as soon as it boasts many men worthy to be copied. The forces from the West, therefore, with a fresh impulse of life, are good as stimulants in a new direction for the American imagination. The greatest evil to be dreaded is money-getting; for when a great art becomes subservient to the desire of gain the artist is transformed into the trader, the art languishes and pines, and, in the midst of material affluence, dies of want."

THE Osgoods are to publish at once "White Rose and Red," a spirited novel in verse, by the author of "St. Abe and his Seven Wives," who may be the versatile Mr. Robert Buchanan or may not. The fact that the new book is dedicated to "Walt Whitman and Alexander Gardiner, with all friends in Washington," favors the latter view of the question, and the writer is so familiar with American life that it seems he must be an American. The hero is a Maine rustic, and the respective heroines and roses a Maine maiden and an Indian girl. The love story is worked out with a rude power and beauty, set off by many faults. It is likely to attract much attention.

HESBA STRETTON, "Edward Garrett," and Mrs. Charles are a trio of woman writers of unusual strength, and Dodd & Mead are fortunate in having a book from each for immediate publication.

THE Harpers have four really notable books for publication within the fortnight. Flammarion's "Atmosphere," edited by the great English meteorologist, Glaisher, combines admirably scientific and popular qualities, and is superbly illustrated. "Sub-Tropical Rambles and Life in the Mauritius," by Consul Pike, which has been held back for prior publication and copyright in England, promises to be very enjoyable, and Canon Tristram's book of explorations in "The Land of Moab" is a great addition to Biblical and general geography. A new novel by Miss Braddon, "Strangers and Pilgrims," completes the list.

THE Lippincotts have ready a number of books this week, including the powerful French novel, "Article 47," on which Mr. Daly's play was based; another fiction, "Under the Surface," by Emma M. Connelly; a book which sketches popularly and pleasantly the various schools of philosophy, under the title, "Thinkers and Thinking," by Dr. Garretson, author of the clever "Odd Hours of a Physician;" a lively book of travel for young people, in France, Switzerland and the Rhine, "Old Merry's Travels on the Continent;" and a volume of poems, "Out of Sweet Solitude," by Eleanor C. Donnelly.

THE publishers inform us that they have now in press the eighth edition of Olive Logan's society novel, "They Met by Chance," which has been received by the press with the extremes of praise and dispraise. Her pungent pen stirs up the critics, who are to have a further opportunity to pay her attention shortly on a new book which she has in hand. Messrs. Adams, Victor & Co. will also publish Miss Emily Faithfull's new work giving her "Impressions" of American society, people, institutions, etc., during the fall. A book of lively interest may be anticipated, for Miss Faithfull had fine opportunities, on her visit here, for gaining what she came in quest of—an intimate acquaintance with American homes, habits, and institutions.

ORDERS have already begun to pour in at the Scribners for Dr. Holland's story of "Arthur Bonnicastle," which has enjoyed an exceptional popularity in *Scribner's Monthly*, and will be issued in book form September 6th, in advance of its completion in the magazine. A first edition of some thousands will be printed, yet it is very necessary that orders to be filled from this first printing should be forwarded immediately. The story, it will be remembered, is autobiographical in form; it is telling no secret to say that it is partly so in matter as well, to which is to be credited much of its vitality and earnestness. The book is a superb illustration of the necessity of self-respect and self-reliance. Twelve admirable illustrations by Miss Mary Hallock will adorn the volume.

POTT, YOUNG & Co. will have ready early in September, "Athol," a new novel, by M. R. H., author of "My Inheritance," etc.

LITERARY AND TRADE NEWS.

A CORRESPONDENT from William street writes: "You are in error in stating that Mrs. Warfield's new volume, 'Miriam Montfort,' is the first from her pen since her 'Household of Bouverie.' She has published, since that work was issued, her 'Beausancourt' (Carleton, 1870), and her 'Romance of the Green Seal' (Beadle & Co., 1868). The sequel to 'Beausancourt' has long been in MS., we believe, but has not, for some unaccount-

able reason, been issued, and the novel ('Beausancourt') without the sequel is very incomplete and unsatisfactory. It was a great mistake to have printed the book at all without its conclusion."

MR. J. BLAIR SCRIBNER is expected home by the next steamer.

MISS ELIZABETH P. PEABODY, of Cambridge, Mass., is publishing a little monthly of 24 pages, the *Kindergarten Messenger*, for the information and instruction of teachers and parents who may desire to know something of that blessing to childhood, Froebel's Kindergarten.

MURRAY is to publish the "Minor Works of George Grote, including several unpublished pieces, with portrait."

WASHINGTON IRVING received about \$240,000 for his literary labors. In that respect no American author has equalled him. Bayard Taylor and Longfellow have made about \$50,000 each by their books. Taylor, however, has a good proprietary interest in the *Tribune*, which enables him to live in good style abroad, though he is a man not given to show. Of the later American authors, "Mark Twain" has probably won the most coin, and he is as thrifty with pence as with pen.—So says the *Bazar*.

THE first volume of the "Monasticon Hibernicum," a history of the abbeys, priories, and other religious houses in Ireland, is to be issued immediately by Mr. W. B. Kelly, of Dublin.

THE new English Palæographical Society starts with 150 members.

THE *Athenæum* says: "We have seldom met with a more useful work than the 'Cyclopædia of India,' edited by Dr. Balfour, and printed at Madras. It is in part a re-issue of a work which appeared in 1857, but is vastly enlarged."

Two nice books for children are just issued by Pott, Young & Co., a pleasant collection of "Nursery Carols," by Rev. J. S. B. Monsell, with a plate on each of the 120 pages in the quaint German style of Pletsch and Richter, and the part "Animals," of the "Anecdotal and Descriptive Natural History," with sixteen colored plates and nearly forty wood-cuts. The first one, a new picture Mother Goose, the little folks will especially like; the second one grown folks also will be interested in.

"SLIPPERS and Gown' is the *unique* title," says an exchange, "of a book by William B. Smith, to be published shortly." Titles of books, we had thought, are rather expected to be "unique."

THE third volume of the "Transactions of the American Philological Association" has just appeared. It may be obtained by application to the Secretary of the Association, Prof. G. F. Comfort, on payment of two dollars, and the first and second volumes of the series are to be had at the same price. They make an interesting series of books, the contents of which are various in value, but all worth having, and some excellent. This third volume contains ten articles, which treats respectively of the following subjects: "Studies in Cymric Philology" (Prof. E. Evans); "Words derived from Indian Languages of North America" (J. Hammond Trumbull); "The Byzantine Greek Pronunciation of the Tenth Century" (Prof. James Hadley); "The Substantive Use of the Greek Participles" (Prof. W. A. Stevens); "Erroneous and Doubtful Uses of the Word 'Such'"

(C. A. Bristed); "Notes on the Lingoa Geral of the Amazonas" (Prof. Ch. Fred Hartt); "Material and Form in Language" (Prof. W. D. Whitney); "Is there an Anglo-Saxon Language?" and "Some Irregular Verbs in Anglo-Saxon" (Prof. F. A. March); "Notes on Forty Versions of the Lord's Prayer in Algonkin Languages" (J. Hammond Trumbull). There is also a paper entitled "Proceedings—Fourth Annual Session, Providence, 1872," which makes brief synopses not only of the articles just named, but also of others that were read before the Association. Of most interest to the general reader is, according to the *Nation*, Mr. Hammond Trumbull's article on English words now or formerly in use and derived from the Indians.

FOR many years newsdealers have complained that publishers of periodicals have furnished their publications to subscribers as cheaply as to the trade. Notwithstanding this unfair competition, for convenience and security against loss through the mail, a great majority of readers now prefer to purchase of the agent as the periodical is issued, and those journals that have the greatest circulation have secured it through the efforts of the dealers. In recognition of this fact, Mr. Frank Leslie, one of the most prominent periodical publishers in the country, has determined to raise the subscription price of his *Illustrirte Zeitung* and also of *Tag für Tag*, to \$5 per year, and of his *Amerikanische Gartenlaube* to \$3 per year. We hope his example will be followed by other publishers. Such a liberal acknowledgment of the wants of the trade cannot but have the best effect on the circulation of these new publications.—*Am. Booksellers' Guide*.

WE reprint the following paragraph from a late issue of the *Publishers' Circular*, London: "On Saturday last the members and friends of the Booksellers' Provident Retreat, to the number of 120, paid a visit to the Retreat of Abbots-Langley. Among the company we noticed some of the leading members of the trade, and the presence of ladies added materially to the enjoyment of the party. The meeting was essentially of a social character, without any reference to business. A very substantial cold collation had been provided against the arrival of the company, to which full justice was done. After the usual toasts had been honored, the company separated in various directions. From the additions which have been made during the last few years, the grounds now comprise upwards of eight acres; and these having been judiciously laid out and planted with fruit and forest trees, formed an object of general admiration. Tea and coffee were provided soon after five o'clock. The party left the grounds a little before eight o'clock, and returned to London highly delighted with their day's excursion."

MRS. MARY A. FLETCHER, and her daughter, Miss Mary Fletcher, have given \$20,000 to establish a free library at Burlington, Vt.

THE opening of the new library building at Concord, Mass., presented to the town by Mr. Munroe, has been delayed until September, by which time not only the hall and the books will be in readiness, but probably, also, a bust of Mr. Munroe, which is to be placed in the main room of the library by the citizens of Concord, as a token of their appreciation of his generous gift. The number of volumes in the library, when reopened, will be about 10,000, and the building will be open to readers, and for the delivery of books, at con-

venient hours every day in the week, except Sunday. By the bequests of William Whiting and Ebenezer Hubbard, and the gifts of various persons, a fund of several thousand dollars will be established soon, and thus, with the town's yearly grant of money, will insure the keeping up of the library by the purchase of new books.—*Springfield Republican*.

THE *Academy*, writing of "A True Reformer," says: "The author of 'The Battle of Dorking' has published separately the pamphlet in three volumes, on the means of making such a catastrophe impossible, which appeared in *Blackwood's Magazine*." The novel seems chiefly written to exhibit elaborately a proposed army system.

MR. JULIAN HAWTHORNE is at Dresden working industriously at his new novel, which is in an advanced state. It is a happy circumstance that the young author's fine physique will permit the steady, unobstructed development of his high literary genius. The new work is expected to fulfil abundantly the promise which most critics found in his "Bressant," and which the general public felt assured was there as much from the sharp conflict of judges as from the direct assertion. It is to be hoped the new story will fare better than its predecessor in the mails. The first part of "Bressant" was lost *en route* for Boston, and had to be entirely rewritten, as there was no copy; four chapters disappeared on their way to *Appleton's Journal*, and, finally, the concluding chapters vanished in a manner equally unaccountable.

BRET HARTE has written a new dialect poem of some length, which will appear in the January *Scribner's*.

THE London *Publishers' Circular* asserts that "the year 1873 will have exceeded all other years in the number of its books, if not in the value of its productions." The contrary is sadly true on this side the Atlantic.

THE circulation of the leading London newspapers is stated upon what is called good authority to be as follows: The Daily Telegraph, 170,000 copies; the Standard, 140,000; Daily News, 90,000; Echo, 80,000; Times, 70,000. The morning and evening papers together give a sum total daily of 569,000 copies.

A SPANISH scholar is preparing a treatise on that game of cards, famous in literature, known as "Ombre," and it is therefore to supersede bezique as the fashion in card playing.

"AN Appeal to the Reverend Clergymen of the United States on Behalf of the Primordial Son of God for Mankind," is to be made by some one through Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger. It is to be hoped, suggests another, that the book will be more intelligible than the title.

TURKEY has now a copyright law, under which an author or his heirs has the exclusive proprietorship of his book—including the right of translation, providing he give due notice of reservation—for forty years, beginning from the issue of the first edition. This species of property can also be transferred like others. The law applies also to translations of foreign works, except that the time is in their case limited to twenty years.

THE Toledo *Blade* has been offering a book premium on subscriptions, and its records make a rather remarkable showing. No less than 700 copies of Josephus were ordered, and the paper was informed by Messrs. Lee & Shepard that "the *Blade* orders have again exhausted the supply of

'Josephus' in this country," and they will have to send to Scotland for more. Of Shakespeare, 1,385 copies were taken; of "Arabian Nights," 462; and of Byron, 122.

THE recent discussions abroad of the authenticity of certain of De Quincey's writings has brought out the fact that the collected edition has omitted several works. Among them are named "Waladmar," a recast of a German novel which purported to be from the English of the author of "Waverley;" "Klosterheim," a romance of the Radcliffe school, and the "Logic of Political Economy," in which it is argued that price is independent of both wages and profit.

A Visit to Björnson.

[WE reprint from the *Christian Union* its translation, by Jacob L. Mayer, of the pleasant description of a visit to the Norwegian poet, in Goldsmith's *Scandinavian Review*.]

For some time past it has been rumored in Christiana that Björnson, Norway's most popular poet and novelist, intended to leave his fatherland, and seek a new home in the United States. But authentic information in regard to the matter could not be obtained, and lately those who considered themselves best informed said that the rumor was groundless. A conversation which the writer had, on the seventeenth of May, with Björnson, at his idyllic home in Swantwyk, proves that the contrary is true, and that the land of the snow-capped mountains will soon lose its most gifted son forever.

It was the sixteenth of May, at the opening of the *Storthing*, when Dr. Ahrenson, an author and politician, said to me, "Have you seen Björnson? I believe he is in town."

What news could be more welcome to me? I went to his hotel, but found that he had gone home some hours before. Swantwyk, where Björnson is pastor, is only eight miles from Trondjhern, and having nothing in particular to do, I thought I could not pass time better than by riding out there and having a talk with the poet.

It was five o'clock in the afternoon when my carriage halted at the parsonage. It is a low, one-story frame house, at least a hundred years old. With its gabled roof, its little round windows, and its peculiar ivy-covered façade, Björnson's house is one of those houses which, once seen, are never forgotten. No wonder that people living in such houses have poetic inspiration. Andersen told me, one day, that the old house in Odense, where he was born, gave him some of his happiest thoughts.

The May evening was fragrant and beautiful. Deep silence reigned in the old village. The peasants were at work yet in the fields. Only a few chubby-cheeked children played on the unpaved streets. I alighted, and walked through the open door. A rather prepossessing, rosy-cheeked blonde woman, evidently about thirty-five years old, received me.

"Is the pastor at home?" I asked.

"My husband is in the garden."

She was the poet's wife, then, to whom I spoke. I followed her through the house, into the yard, and to the garden-gate.

"Father!" she cried, in a sonorous voice. A moment afterwards Björnson's tall figure was seen behind a bush. He was in shirt-sleeves, and in his hand he held a sprinkling-pot. I had not seen him before in seven years. He seemed to have

grown much older, and the handsome, manly face looked care-worn. He recognized me at once, and, shaking hands, welcomed me in the cordial manner of his countrymen.

"And you want to forsake us?" asked I, after the usual greetings were exchanged.

"Yes, yes," he replied, drawing up his massive brow, "I'll have to."

His wife, who stood near us, nodded her head, while a shadow passed over her pretty, sunny face. We went into the visiting-room—a plainly-furnished chamber. We sat down, and Frau Björnson brought coffee, and, as we sipped the aromatic beverage, I heard from the poet's lips his sad story.

It was the old story of literary genius ill-rewarded. What a shame for Norway, that its most popular novelist, its most charming poet, its greatest author, is so poor that his income is not sufficient to cover his moderate expenses.

"You see," said Björnson, "for ten years I have worked hard. My pastorate only brings me in two hundred and fifty dollars per annum. For my books I have hardly received anything. My son Olaf should have gone to the lyceum. I could not afford it. Why should I remain in Norway? I have heard that my books are well received in America. For the last two years I have studied English, and can now write this language quite fluently. The Norwegians in America are coming to the front. Why should it not go well with me there? If I do not succeed as an author, I have strong arms to work with."

And now his wife joined in the conversation. She said that she was afraid of the long sea voyage; but her husband had felt unhappy in Swantwyk for some years, and dreamed night and day of the New World.

"Have you received any propositions from persons living in America?" I asked.

"None at all," Björnson replied. "Next October I shall, at my own risk, go to New York. If I find anything to do there, I shall remain in the city. If not, I'll go to the Northwest, and become a farmer."

I endeavored to make some objections to this plan.

"Why have you not applied to the Royal Government for an increase of salary?" Björnson smiled bitterly.

"I did it more than once, and hardly received an answer. You know the Government at Stockholm doesn't bother itself about Norway, and, to tell the truth, I believe it hates Norwegian literature."

With a heavy heart I said farewell to Björnson and his wife. We cannot blame the poet for leaving his fatherland—we can only blame ourselves.

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